Matrika #2 @7314
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The Pentacle is a Magickal tool that some folks do not use. Their reasoning □
is sound since it is obviously an adaptation from ceremonial Magick, as is the □
athame. These people use only the wand and the chalice in their work. But I □
like the use of the pentacle and athame because Wicca has always been quite □
ecclectic and drawn from several Pantheons and systems. So it doesn't make □
any sense to me to say we can draw on all systems EXCEPT the Kabbalah as used □
in Ceremonial Magick. Also I like the way using all 4 of these main tools □
that most traditions and practitioners share brings correspondences to the 4 □
suits of Tarot cards and to the 4 elements.

The Pentacle is a flat disk, traditionally inscribed on copper and coated with □
a clear finish of some type to prevent corrosion after it has been inscribed □
with the continuos 5-pointed star or pentegram. This is not an open pentacle □
like many witches wear. It is ENGRAVED on the disk. The reason being you put □
SALT on this disk in circle and if it was open all the salt would be on the □
altar, on the floor, everywhere but where you need it.

I have also, recently, seen some pentacles inscribed on slices of agate put □
out by cauldron Crafts in Maryland that are JUST GORGEOUS. Since the pentacle □
is feminine and relates to earth either the copper or the stone is □
appropriate. However brass I find less so as it is usually considered a solar □
metal and masculine. That is why I also prefer to avoid brass chalices. □
Copper chalices are avoided because they give off a metallic residue that is □
poisonous into the liquid, if they corrode - and alcohol in wine or ale and □
acid in wine or juice WILL do this. But copper is perfect for the pentacle.

What you engrave on your pentacle is entirely up to you. The NeoGardnerian □
and NeoAlexandrians (as well as the originals of these traditions) have very □
specific symbols that they always use. Other traditions sometimes have □

specific symbols they require as well. But others just use a plain pentacle, □
or tht pentacle with runic symbols of their choosing or whatever has meaning □
to them. I have seen beautiful pentacles - in fact our distributor of jewelry □
carries them - that are pentegrams surrounded by inscribings of Celtic □ knotwork.

I have also seen some gorgeous stained glass altar pentacles - my favorite of □
these was one where the points where the colors of the elements. The 4 lower □
points were the Red, Yellow, BLue and Green my traditio ascribes to the □ elements and the top one was silver for Spirit/Divinity. The center and □ background were a lovely violet color. Obviously SOMEONE put a lot of work □
into it.

One note - a specific coating I have found to work well on copper pentacles so □
that the salt doesn't destroy them is CLEAR NAIL POLISH. This has to □ periodically be reapplied however.